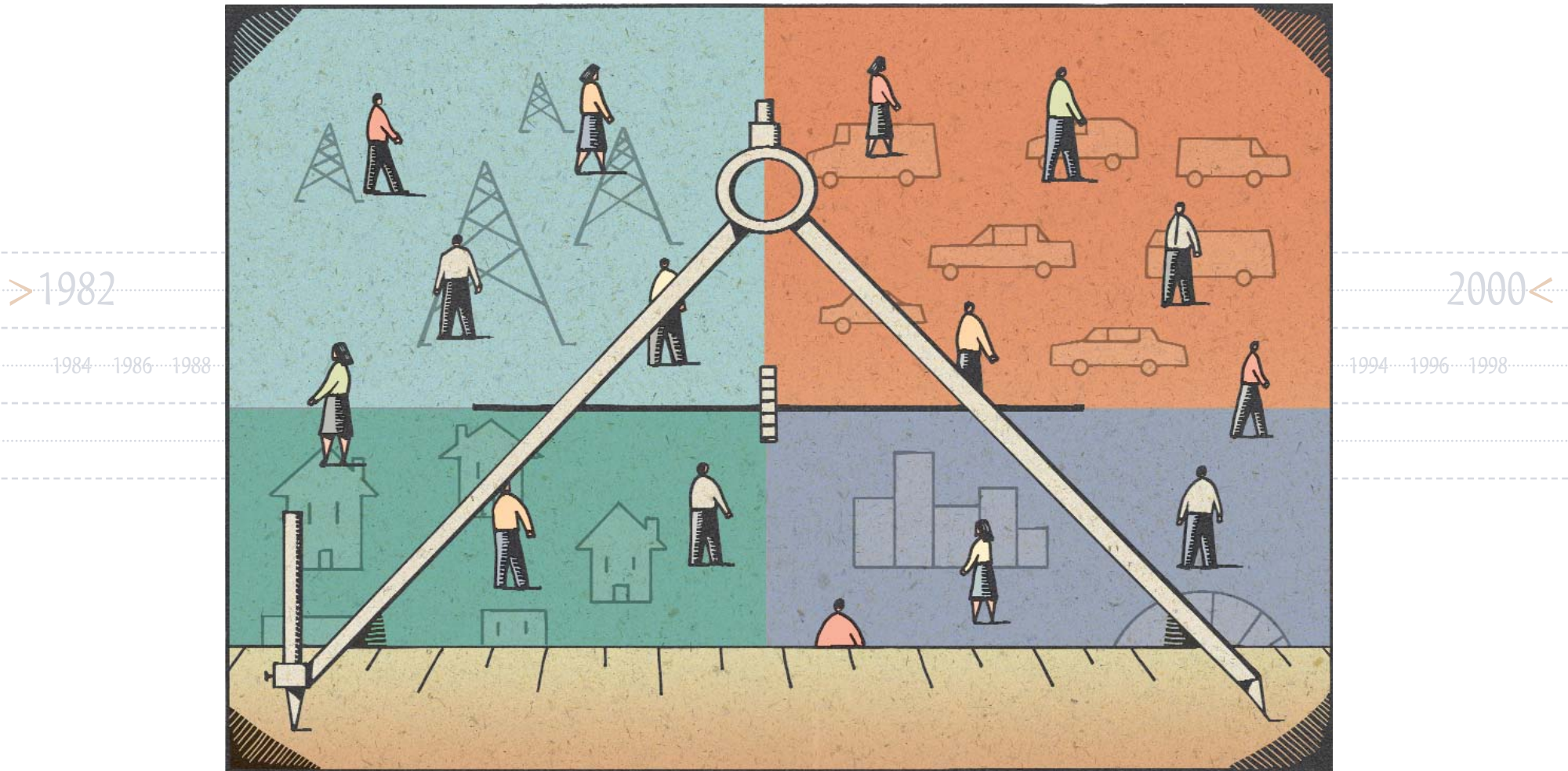


# STATE OF THE REGION 2001

Measuring Progress in the 21st Century



# preface

**The State of the Region 2001** is the fourth annual report published by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) on performance indicators regarding issues facing the Southern California region. SCAG is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for 184 cities in the six Southern California counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura. The region covers more than 38,000 square miles, of which about 6,000 square miles are urbanized. There are over 16 million people living in the SCAG region.

The regional indicators featured in this report were selected for reliability in measuring the outcomes they are intended to track. The report also documents the metropolitan region's performance on a number of indicators compared to other metropolitan regions to assist the reader understand the competitiveness of Southern California, as it relates to the rest of the nation and around the world.

Members of the Benchmarks Task Force, consisting of elected officials and representatives from the business sector and academia, identified the performance indicators tracked in these annual reports in order to assess the region's progress toward meeting the goals outlined in SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide. The Plan and Guide, one of the major studies undertaken by SCAG to help the region meet the challenges faced in the 21st century, was developed and adopted between 1994 and 1996. It had

three overall goals for the region: raise the standard of living, enhance the quality of life, and foster equity.

## The Indicators

The indicators for the region, as well as comparisons with other metropolitan regions, are provided in the following report. As in the previous State of the Region reports, the indicators are grouped by subject, referring back to sections of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide and Regional Transportation Plan. The indicators are directly linked to adopted policies and guidelines for the region.

